

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE HAVE BEGUN

BETWEEN THE TEUTONIC ALLIES AND THE RUSSIANS AT BREST-LITOVSK.

ENEMY PLAYS TRUMP CARD

Von Kuehlmann Unanimously Elected Chairman and Austro-German Delegates Are Far Stronger Than Delegates From Russia.

Peace negotiations between the Teutonic allies and the Russians have begun at Brest-Litovsk. And apparently the enemy has played a trump card at the outset, for on the proposal of Prince Leopold of Bavaria, the German commander-in-chief on the Russian front, Dr. von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary and an astute politician, has been chosen unanimously as official chairman.

A noteworthy fact in the composition of the delegations from the various countries allied with the Austro-Germans is that they include men who have stood high in the councils of their respective countries, while the men who are to handle Russia's interests for the most part are unknown in world politics.

Still another outstanding fact in the meager details of the formation of the conference that thus far have come through is that Rumania is not credited with having sent delegates to Brest-Litovsk. The possibility is, therefore, that Rumania has decided to hold aloof from discussing a separate peace, notwithstanding the fact that geographically she will be completely isolated from her allies should the negotiations result in Russia quitting the war.

AMENDMENTS TO FARM LOAN LAW ARE ADVOCATED.

Board Wants Private Farm Mortgage Banks Admitted.

Washington.—The federal farm loan board announced that it advocates amendment to the farm loan act under which many private farm mortgage bankers may enter the government system as joint stock land banks. At the same time, the board also gave warning that it expects interests seeking to break down the system to file a suit soon to test the constitutionality of the act.

Amendments to the existing law which will be specifically recommended to Congress in the board's forthcoming annual report, are:

To remove the present restriction permitting a joint stock land bank to do business only in the state where it is situated and one contiguous state;

To permit a bank to issue bonds to the amount of twenty times its capital stock, which must be \$250,000 or more, instead of fifteen times, as under existing law, and

To raise from six to six and a half per cent the maximum interest rate which joint stock land banks may charge on loans to farmers.

All these amendments have been sought by the Farm Mortgage Bankers' association, whose leaders predict that a large proportion of the members would seek government charters and operate under supervision of the farm loan board if the modifications were made. Their plea to be allowed to use the name "National Land Bank" instead of "Joint Stock Land Bank" has been received favorably by the board, owing to fear of confusing the private institutions with the government's twelve federal land banks.

Joint stock land banks would still be compelled to limit interest rates on loans to within one per cent more than the selling price of their bonds, even though the maximum were raised to six and a half per cent.

Majority For Conscription.

Ottawa, Ont.—A majority of 174,000 votes for conscription is shown by the complete returns on the referendum in Australia, says a Reuter dispatch from Melbourne. The vote was 938,000 against and 764,000 for. Votes cast by the Australian troops on the question are being counted in London.

EVERY HOUSEHOLDER TO HAVE ITS COAL SHOVEL TAGGED.

Washington.—Every household in the land from the white house to the most humble cottage is to have its coal shovel tagged with war-time economy hints on Wednesday, January 26. The fuel administration announced that the services of the twenty-three million odd school children were being enlisted, and that all state and municipal authorities and teachers would be asked to write in making the day a school holiday.

B. M. STALLWORTH DIES SUDDENLY IN GEORGIA.

Gainesville, Ga.—B. M. Stallworth, aged 45, prominently identified with the cotton mill industry for many years in Georgia and South Carolina and general manager of Pacolet Mills at New Holland, near here, died suddenly at his home in New Holland. Heart failure was said to have been the cause of his death. Mr. Stallworth, who was a native of Greenwood county, South Carolina, is survived by his widow, two brothers and a sister.

Officer of Torpedoed Cruiser Who Survived



Lieut. John K. Richards, U. S. N., was one of the officers of the American destroyer Jacob Jones who survived when that vessel was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine.

TWO YEARS AGO HAD ONLY 300

SECRETARY DANIELS SAYS NAVY NOW HAS MORE THAN 1,000 SHIPS.

Contracts Have Been Let for Hundreds of Others Including Dreadnaughts, Cruisers and Destroyers and Auxiliaries—Explain Operation.

Washington.—A recital by Secretary Daniels of how the navy prepared for war by adding several hundred ships to the fleet and letting contracts for hundreds of others, including dreadnaughts, battle cruisers, destroyers and auxiliaries, and explanation of the operation of the navy supply department by Rear Admiral McGowan, paymaster general, marked the opening of the inquiry by a house sub-committee into the navy's war activities.

Representative Britten, of Illinois, asked Secretary Daniels whether the department had received any complaints from Vice Admiral Sims, commanding American naval forces in the war zone. The secretary said the question was improper and that "mess gossip" should not be banded about, but he added that Admiral Sims had been given everything possible that the navy could give.

Later when Admiral McGowan was called to the stand he submitted an order issued by him some months ago directing that Admiral Sims requests for supplies be acted upon on the same day they were received.

"We have 424 ships in course of construction," Secretary Daniels told the committee. "That does not include submarine-chasers, of which we are building 350 and does not include the small craft. The chasers will be in service by early spring." Included in the 424 ships, he said, were battle cruisers, battleships, scout cruisers, destroyers, fuel ships, gunboats, hospital ships, ammunition ships, seagoing tug, mine-sweepers and sailing mugs.

The navy at the beginning of its participation in the war, the witness continued, had at its disposal the money needed for most of the expansion immediately required and in pressing cases where funds were lacking over-obligations were incurred. Within the last few days the navy has had to ask for \$86,000,000 in addition to the regular estimates amounting to \$1,039,000,000 for the next fiscal year, now before the house naval committee.

AUSTRO-GERMAN FORCE ATTACK ITALIAN LINE

Reinforcements in Large Numbers are Brought Up.

The Austro-Germans have renewed in great strength their effort to pierce the Italian line and debouch upon the plains of Venetia in the region of Bassano. In fierce fighting around Monte Azolone, in which the enemy again suffered severe losses and several times were repulsed, reinforcements in large numbers were brought up and the Italians were compelled to give ground. The fighting lasted through out Tuesday and according to the German war office, more than 2,000 Italians were made prisoner.

Likewise along the southern reaches of the Piave river, the invaders and the Italians are engaged in heavy fighting. A crossing of the Old Piave on pontoon bridges was successfully carried out by one enemy detachment, but later the Italians shoved back the Teutons to the water's edge.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN SHIPPING LOSSES SHOWN

London.—Fourteen British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons and three under that tonnage were sunk by mine or submarine during the last week, according to the admiralty statement. One fishing vessel also was sunk. The shipping losses by mine or submarine in the past week are slightly under those of the previous week, when 14 vessels of more than 1,600 tons and seven under that tonnage were destroyed.

ITALIANS REGAIN LOST TERRITORY

CEASE DEFENSIVE AND RESUME OFFENSIVE WITH SIGNAL SUCCESSES.

TERRIFIC ARTILLERY FIRE

Situation in Russia Continues Obscure.—Germans Said to Have Rejected Peace Terms of the Bolsheviks.

The Italians on the northern line in Italy between the Brenta and Piave rivers have ceased, for the warfare against the attacks of the time being at least, their defensive Austro-Germans and assumed the offensive with signal successes on several sectors.

Attacking the positions which the enemy earlier in the week captured near Monte Asolone, General Diaz's troops have regained a considerable portion of the terrain and held it, notwithstanding the terrific artillery fire that was turned upon them.

The German war office, in endeavoring to belittle the success of the offensive, which it asserts was repulsed, shows that the effort of the Italians was a determined one, the troops to the west of Monte Asolone delivering seven attacks against the enemy front. Admission is made in the German communication that the Italians also have taken the initiative in the fighting on Monte Pertica and Monte Silarolo, but it is declared that their attacks on these sectors, as on Monte Asolone were without success.

The situation in Russia continues obscure, although such reports as are coming through indicate that the bolshevik government is losing ground in the face of the opposition that is being imposed by the Ukrainians and the followers of General Kaledines. The bolshevik commissioners are declared to have declined to accept the negative reply of the Ukrainian Rada to the bolshevik demand that Ukraine cease aiding the Kaledines forces and give the rada an opportunity to reconsider its action. As indicating that the rada has finally declined to give heed to the dictates of the bolshevik is a report that a definite alliance has been formed between Kaledines followers and the Ukrainians.

A dispatch from Petrograd says an unofficial report in circulation in the Russian capital is to the effect that the Germans have rejected the peace terms put forward by the bolshevik delegates. Recent dispatches have indicated that the peace pourparlers in progress at Brest-Litovsk were merely preliminary to the peace conference which is to assemble there next Tuesday and which is to be attended by the German and Austro-Hungarian foreign ministers.

ARMY CLOTHING, SHOES AND FOOD UNDER INQUIRY

Quartermaster General Sharpe Before the Investigating Committee.

Washington.—Clothing, shoes and food supplies for the American army were investigated by the senate military committee, turning its general inquiry into war preparations to the quartermaster general's department. It was developed that millions were spent just before the United States entered the war to provide for the great army since raised.

Major General Sharpe, quartermaster general, was before the committee all day and for an hour of the time answered all confidential questions behind closed doors. He was closely examined, especially regarding the admitted shortage of overcoats, which he said was due principally to late deliveries of large orders. Except for overcoats and a few other winter garments, of which, he stated, complete stocks would be in camp by December 31, the general declared there is no clothing shortage.

G. B. MEANS NOT TO BE INDICTED IN NEW YORK

New York.—After a conference here with a representative of the state's attorney of Cook county, Illinois, District Attorney Swann announced that he would not ask the New York county grand jury to indict Gaston B. Means in connection with the "second" will of Mrs. Maudie Robinson King, of whose murder Means was acquitted by a jury at Concord, N. C. Sunday, December 16.

GETS JAIL SENTENCE FOR ASSAULT ON BILLY SUNDAY

Atlanta, Ga.—Charged with assaulting Billy Sunday at the evangelist's meeting here, W. H. Beuterbaugh, said to be a German, was fined \$100 and sentenced to jail for 30 days here. Later he was indicted on three counts by the Fulton county grand jury in connection with the assault. Bail of \$1,000 was fixed in each count, which charge assault on Sunday; assault on one of the evangelist's workers, and disturbing public worship.

LOYD GEORGE SETS FORTH WAR AIMS

TEUTONS MUST RESTORE ALL TERRITORY TAKEN AND PAY FOR GREAT HAVOC.

GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS

Reverted That Teutonic Allies Would Offer for Peace and Had Requested Russia to Sound former Allies for Peace.

In the midst of the peace pourparlers that are in progress between the representative of the Teutonic allies and the bolshevik government in Russia, the war aims of Great Britain—and doubtless of all her allies—have been concretely set forth in the house of commons by David Lloyd-George, the British prime minister.

The complete restoration of territory now in the hands of the enemy and compensation for the havoc they have wrought is the price that will be demanded for the laying down of arms and the bringing about of peace.

Great Britain did not seek territorial aggrandizement for herself or for any of her allies when she entered the war. Mr. Lloyd George said but entered into the hostilities merely for the sake of her honor. As to Germany's colonies, all of which are now in the hands of the entente, Mr. Lloyd George said, their disposition must be determined at the peace congress. Jerusalem, however, the premier declared, would never be restored to the Turks.

The statement of the prime minister came almost simultaneously with a report that the Teutonic allies intended to make peace proposals to the entente and that Russia had been requested to take similar steps and was endeavoring to sound her former allies in arms as to their requirements for a cessation of hostilities.

PASSENGER TRAINS CRASH; 38 KILLED; MANY INJURED

Shepherdsville, Ky.—Thirty-eight known dead and 40 to 50 persons injured, some of them seriously, was the toll taken when Louisville & Nashville passenger train No. 7, from Cincinnati to New Orleans, crashed into the rear of a Bardonia, Louisville & Springfield accommodation train 500 yards south of the station here.

The accommodation train had just left the station after making a stop, when the faster train which makes no stop here came in sight moving at a high rate of speed. Efforts to bring it to a halt were futile and the heavy locomotive with the heavy weight of a steel train behind it crashed into the rear of the accommodation with a terrific impact. The two wooden passenger cars and baggage cars making up the smaller train were splintered.

Virtually every person aboard the accommodation train, both crew and passengers were either killed or badly injured. None of the passengers aboard the fast train were killed, though a number were injured. The locomotive was demolished and the heavy steel coaches making up the train were thrown from the track.

Non of the passengers aboard the fast train were killed and none of them received more than minor injuries. Another locomotive and train crew was sent from Louisville and after detaching one baggage car the New Orleans train went on as soon as the right of way was declared.

Joseph Weatherford, telegraph operator at the station here, said that after the accommodation train left the station he had thrown his block to show the track clear and left the office to help handle baggage. When he got outside, he said, he saw the fast train approaching, ran back to the office, pulled his block to show red, seized a lantern and rushed to the platform to flag it. He reached the side of the track just as the heavy locomotive thundered by.

PROPERTY OF AMERICANS IN GERMANY TAKEN OVER

Berlin.—The property of Americans in Germany has been placed under the trusteeship of the German government. There is no intention, however, to confiscate property or to infringe on the personal rights of the property holders.

French Sink Two U-Boats.

Athens.—French destroyers have sunk two enemy submarines in the Gulf of Taranto.

BABST PREDICTS PLENTY OF SUGAR DURING NEW YEAR

Washington.—A plentiful supply of sugar for the American people during the coming year was predicted by Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company, testifying before the senate investigating committee. He opposed placing a limit on domestic consumption, contending that any such plan would result in a larger surplus than could be shipped abroad.

D. R. COKER HAS RESIGNED

Elliott of Columbia May Succeed as Food Administrator—Private Interests Consume Coker's Time.

NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM CAMP SEVIER

PLENTY OF AMUSEMENTS ON EVERY HAND FOR SOLDIERS AT CAMP SEVIER

Trouble with Water Pipes

Columbia.—David R. Coker of Hartsville has resigned as food administrator of South Carolina, and William Elliott, an attorney of Columbia, has been recommended as Mr. Coker's successor. Governor Manning has announced.

Governor Manning said that some days ago, Mr. Coker conferred with him relative to resigning as food administrator. Mr. Coker said that the pressure of private interests and his chairmanship of the South Carolina State Council of Defense prevented him giving as much time as he thought necessary to the state food administration. The resignation then was decided upon between him and the governor and was transmitted to Herbert Hoover, United States food administrator. Both Governor Manning and Mr. Coker joined in a recommendation of Mr. Elliott as Mr. Coker's successor.

It is thought here that Mr. Elliott's commission as state food administrator will be signed by President Wilson in a few days.

Mr. Elliott is one of the leading members of the South Carolina bar and is a man of acute mental attributes and wide business experience. He has never offered for political preferment and is not now in politics. He is a close friend of the present State administration.

Governor Thinks State Will Act.

Columbia.—Governor Manning believes that the South Carolina legislature will adopt the national prohibition amendment at the approaching session. This opinion was expressed in a telegram sent to The World and The Tribune, New York newspapers. The telegram sent by Governor Manning in response to queries from these two papers read:

"Have no doubt that South Carolina will adopt prohibition amendment. The benefits of liquor restriction adopted by the State have been great and generally recognized. This makes the next step easy."

It is probable that Governor Manning will recommend that no night sessions be held during the session of the legislature to relieve fuel shortage. The chief executive explained that such a recommendation will likely be embodied in his opening message of recommendations.

While in Washington the last few days Governor Manning was assured that rifles for the regiment of State troops would be available by January 15. The type or rifle with which this regiment will be equipped is the 750 Krag Johnson.

The governor talked over the coal situation with Dr. H. A. Garfield.

The State's immediate supply of coal is much below the quantity needed. It was suggested that old crossings piled along the railroad tracks might do much to relieve the present stringency.

Baptist Board Meets.

Columbia.—The Baptist State mission board held its annual meeting at the Sunday school building of the First Baptist Church, sessions being held in both the afternoon and evening.

Dr. C. E. Burtis is president of the board. Dr. W. T. Decker, secretary and treasurer, and A. B. Kennedy, recording secretary.

NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM CAMP SEVIER

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Trouble with Water Pipes

Freeze Causes Inconvenience—Application for Chemical Fire Engine.

Camp Sevier, Greenville.—There's amusement and sport for the soldier boys here during their off moments and when they haven't time or don't care to go to Greenville. Beside the daily athletic program insisted on by the military authorities, and which is to a large extent of a recreational nature, there are several movie shows and two vaudeville houses operated by private interests within the camp limits, and in addition to these each Y. M. C. A. building shows two reels of standard motion pictures weekly, while the Liberty programs, which are lyceum chautauqua attractions booked jointly by the Y. M. C. A. and the war department commission on training camp activities, last week began showing nightly in the camp, and soon will have two tents showing these programs nightly.

There are seven army association buildings in the camp, and six of these devote two nights weekly to pictures, while the seventh is to be fitted with electric lights so that they may be shown there also. In addition to the two regular entertainments, the instructive films of the department of the soldier's duty are shown weekly. It will take some time to finish showing them to the boys. In the division, as instructions require, as there are six reels, and not more than three may be shown on a single night to any set of men, while they can not well be shown to more than 75 at a time.

A chemical fire engine has been requested from Washington for the camp by Major Buck, the camp quartermaster, because the water supply system is so frequently out of order and the pressure so low much of the time. During the recent cold weather several of the mains supplying different units pulled apart because no allowance had been made for contraction due to decreased temperature and for several days on and some organizations were without any water except that which they laboriously brought from the nearest tap in working order. Many of the hot water heaters just installed in the company bath-houses were left with water in them and were much damaged when this froze. Last week all organizations had water for the first time in more than a week.

Edward B. Peck of Shelby, N. C., and Thomas B. Dills of Greensboro, Pa., have been added to the staff of the Army Y. M. C. A. here. Mr. Peck has been made educational secretary at Unit No. 34 at the Sixtieth Brigade, while Mr. Dills is temporarily attached to Unit No. 86, at the Fifty-fifth Field Artillery Brigade.

In response to an offer from Doris Blake of the Chicago Tribune, to find girls to write to lonely boys at Camp Sevier, dozens of letters addressed to her have come pouring in to army association headquarters at camp, whence they will be forwarded.

Hand to hand fighting is being taught the artillerymen at Camp Sevier by the physical director of the Y. M. C. A. there and the husky wearers of the crimson hat cords are said to take to this gentle sport with more avidity than to any other. The importance of instruction in fighting without weapons is being daily more recognized in military circles.

Thirty-five men were accepted by the recruiting officer here the last day on which registered men might enlist. North Carolina led with 26 men, 18 of whom were assigned to the 113th Field Artillery, formerly the First North Carolina Field Artillery. South Carolina sent six and Tennessee three, while six came from other States.

Army Y. M. C. A. Unit No. 82, supplying the ammunition train, divisional train headquarters, the bakers' company, and the tow companies of military police, has been awarded the prize at the first monthly inspection as the neatest, best arranged and most attractive of the army association buildings at camp. A banner is being made which will be awarded monthly and which will be retained by a building as long only as it stays in first place. All of the buildings were much fixed up for the inspection, adding greatly to their home-like appearance and attractiveness to the boys.

There are plenty of religious services for the boys at camp to attend. On Sunday there were Sunday schools in each of the seven Army Y. M. C. A. buildings and at each two other services during the day, one of these in most cases being a regimental service. Besides these, mass was celebrated twice in the Knights of Columbus hall. These services were conducted in some cases by army chaplains, some by association religious secretaries, and in some cases by ministers from without. The Rev. E. E. Robb of Chicago, who will make addresses in camp this week, spoke twice.

Three paroles on good behavior were issued by Governor Manning upon recommendation of the pardon board.

They were Julius Bailey of Anderson county; Richard Wilson, of Oconee county; and J. E. Wyatt, of York county.

Private Burt Jolly, Truck Company No. 12, One Hundred and Fifth Ammunition train, father W. E. Jolly, Nichols, died at Camp Sevier.

Sartanburg city schools will have three weeks vacation.

In receivership proceedings the Greenville & Western Railroad was sold today at auction for \$100,000. It was bid in by John Love, a local auctioneer. It is believed he is acting for others. No cash was paid down. The road is 24 miles long and was appraised at less than \$500,000.

Congressman Byrnes was advised that the motor truck route scheme for South Carolina would embrace a route from Augusta to Orangeburg, from Orangeburg to Charleston and from Orangeburg to Columbia. There will be none, it appears, from Columbia to Augusta through Lexington county.